Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS)

Fort Gordon

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Purpose

- **Background/Objectives**
- **Process w/Lessons Learned**
- **Benefits & Results**
- **Summary**

What is EPAS?

- Provide commanders with an assessment of compliance with Federal, State, and Local/Army environmental regulations

- Internal Assessments
  - Installations select assessors
  - Business practices determine frequency

- External Assessments
  - USAEC/SERO select assessors
  - Risk model determines frequency

EPAS Objectives

- Provide Garrison Commander with an assessment of installation operations and activities using standard protocols (Federal, State, and Local/Army)
- Identify installation environmental program deficiencies and strengths
- Increase environmental awareness throughout the installation

Operations / Activities

- Motor Pools/Maintenance
- Landfills/Recycling
- Water Supply (WTP)/Wells
- Waste Collection Points
- Hazardous Materials/Waste Storage
- Former Waste/Collection Sites
- Boiler Plants
- Clinics (Medical & Dental)
- Storage Tanks
- Pesticides Shop
- Training Sites
- DRMO
- Paint Shops
- WWTP
- Storage Tanks
- Washracks
- Airfield/Ranges
- AAFES
- Incinerators

Standard Protocols

- Air
- Wastewater
- Drinking Water
- Hazardous Waste
- Natural Resources
- Pesticide Management
- Program Management
- Storage Tanks
- Cultural/Historic Resources
- Environmental Documentation (NEPA)
- Solid Waste (Medical Waste)
- Toxic Substances (PCBs, Asbestos, Lead-Based Paints)
- Pollution Prevention
- Petroleum/Oils/Lubricants (POL)

Compliance Deficiencies and Strengths

- Class I – Federal or State requirement
- Class II – *Future* Federal or State requirement

- Class III – Army/Installation requirement

- Positives – Above & beyond what's required

Increase Awareness

- **External Assessment Process**
  - **Pre-Assessment**
  - **Assessment**
  - **Post-Assessment**
- **Lessons Learned**

Pre-Assessment

- **Standardized Assessors**
- **Scoping Visit**
  - **Brief Garrison Cdr**
  - **Installation familiarization/tour**
  - **Sampling strategy**
  - **PAO article**
  - **Logistics coordination**
- **GC support (email directorates/units)**

Assessment

- **Site visits include ENRMO Staff**
- **Program Mgmt interviews directorates**
- **Daily afternoon reviews**
- **Individual media exit briefs**
- **Draft findings review (if necessary)**
- **Exit brief w/ GC & Env Staff**
- **Draft report (EPAR)**

Post-Assessment

- **Executive Summary Review/Staffed**
- **Environmental Performance Assessment Report (EPAR) Review/Finalization**
- **Installation Corrective Action Plan (ICAP)**
  - **GC's "tracking tool" to monitor progress of corrective actions**
- **SERO IMA Environmental Support**

Important Notes

- **EPAS is not…**
  - **A 100% fence-to-fence inspection ..captures ~ 25%**
  - **A guarantee against NOVs or Fines**
  - **A one time event that passes through every 2-5 years.**
- **To be successful, Installations should…**
  - **Implement an "Internal Assessment" program**
  - **Continue to stress Environmental**

Benefits & Results

- **Benefits:**
  - **Increase Environmental Awareness**
  - **Positive Perception by Regulators**
  - **SERO IMA Commitment / Relationships**
- **Results:**
  - **Reduction in enforcement actions**
  - **Improved Environmental Program Requirements submissions**
  - **Elevated Command Awareness of Environmental Staffing shortfalls**

Summary

- **Garrison Commanders Program to Attain and Sustain Environmental Compliance**
  - **Identifies environmental risks**
  - **Mechanism to help identify and plan for environmental projects via Ft Gordon's annual EPR submission**
- **Viewed Favorably by Regulators**
- **A Cooperative Effort between Ft Gordon and SERO IMA**

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